

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 AGR-01 DODE-00  
PM-04 H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 /086 W  
-----162242Z 091100 /70  
R 161150Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8771

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PASS USDA/FAS/FCA/ERS

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, UR  
SUBJECT: USSR: PRIVATE PLOT PRODUCTION ENCOURAGED

REF: (A) MOSCOW 3808; (B) MOSCOW 7916

1. JUNE 14 PRAVDA (PAGE 2) CARRIED ARTICLE  
DETAILING PROBLEMS FACING THOSE WHO WORK PRIVATE  
PLOTS, AND SUGGESTED THAT THEY BE GIVEN GREATER ASSIST-  
ANCE THAN THEY ARE NOW RECEIVING. I. TITOV, SPECIAL  
PRAVDA CORRESPONDENT, NOTED A GENERAL DIMINUTION OF  
INTEREST AMONG RURAL PEOPLE IN MAINTAINING PRIVATE PLOTS,  
PARTICULARLY SMALL LIVESTOCK HERDS. THE MAJOR REASON  
WAS SAID TO BE THE DIFFICULTY IN PROCURING FEED, BUT  
OTHER REASONS INCLUDED ENHANCED REGAIL AVAILABILITY  
OF MEAT (ALLEGED) AND MILK IN RURAL AREAS AND THE UNWILLINGNESS  
OF MANY YOUNGER PEOPLE TO TAKE UP SUCH WORK GIVEN THEIR  
INTEREST IN TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS OF  
LEISURE-TIME ACTIVITY.

2. THE WRITER NOTED THAT BREZHNEV HIMSELF, AT THE 16TH TRADE  
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UNION CONGRESS, HAD CHARACTERIZED PRIVATE PLOT AGRICULTURE AS A  
NEEDED PRODUCTION RESERVE. THE ARTICLE CLOSED WITH AN ADMO-  
NITION TO HEADS OF STATE AND COLLECTIVE FARMS (AND  
WORKERS) TO LOOK AFTER THE NEEDS OF PRIVATE PLOTS.  
NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS WERE, HOWEVER, MADE.

3. COMMENT: THE PRAVDA ARTICLE FOLLOWS BY ONLY A

FEW DAYS THE RELEASE OF THE DRAFT CONSTITUTION WHICH  
MAKES THE PRIVATE PLOT PERMISSIVE RATHER THAN A "RIGHT",  
AS IT WAS UNDER THE OLD CONSTITUTION.

IN OUR VIEW, THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE ARTICLE WAS  
PROBABLY SIMPLY THE FURTHER PROPAGATION OF PARTY'S  
CURRENT REAPPROBATION OF PRIVATE PLOTS WHICH COMMENCED  
AGAIN AT 25TH CONGRESS AFTER POOR CROP OF 1975 AND RE-  
SULTING LIVESTOCK LIQUIDATION. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED,  
THE PARTY'S ATTITUDE TOWARD THESE PLOTS TENDS TO VARY  
INVERSELY WITH CROP AND FOOD (MEAT) SITUATION.

4. ALSO CONSIDERED POSSIBLE, HOWEVER, THAT ONE  
OBJECTIVE OF ARTICLE WAS TO ALLAY ANY FEARS WHICH  
MIGHT HAVE STEMMED FROM ABOVE-MENTIONED CON-  
STITUTIONAL CHANGE WHICH MODIFIES LONG-TERM SOVIET  
GOAL FROM MANDATORY (RIGHT) TO DISCRETIONARY BASIS.

5. IF THE PRIMARY MOTIVE HAD BEEN FURTHER EXPLANA-  
TION OF THE CONSTITUTION, IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT  
MENTION WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE OF A FURTHER IMPORTANT  
CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE, NAMELY, PERMITTING ALL SOVIETS--  
NOT JUST COLLECTIVE FARM HOUSEHOLDS -- TO HAVE LIVE-  
STOCK AND POULTRY. THIS CHANGE, WHICH WAS APPARENT-  
LY CONSIDERED NECESSARY BECAUSE OF CONTINUING IN-  
ADEQUATE MEAT SUPPLIES AND THE OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE  
IMPROVEMENT, AMOUNTS TO FURTHER PAINFUL ADMISSION  
THAT THE SOCIALIZED SECTOR CANNOT YET BE RELIED UPON  
TO SATISFY MEAT DEMAND AT LEAST FOR THE NEXT FEW  
YEARS. THIS NEW BENEFIT IS, HOWEVER, NOT WITHOUT  
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STRINGS BECAUSE MAINTENANCE OF LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY  
MUST BE "UNDER THE PROCEDURE DEFINED BY LAW."  
TOON

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT, AGRICULTURAL WORKERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MOSCOW08624  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770215-0977  
**Format:** TEL  
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**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 8dfe067c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 MOSCOW 3808, 77 MOSCOW 7916  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 17-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2130147  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** USSR: PRIVATE PLOT PRODUCTION ENCOURAGED  
**TAGS:** EAGR, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/8dfe067c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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